APPROVED

Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time
Monday June 22, 2020 at 6:30 PM

Location
Join our Zoom meeting
Meeting ID: 896 4417 5114
Password: 1x2kHa

Directors Present
A. Farooqi (remote), A. Gozycki (remote), A. Starling (remote), M. Dixon (remote), M. Mittal (remote), M. Ramasamy (remote), S. Dasu (remote), S. Korrapati (remote), S. Liner (remote), S. Schroeck (remote)

Directors Absent
None

Ex Officio Members Present
A. Pieper (remote)

Guests Present
Donald Morris, N. Zagorski (remote)

I. Opening Items

A.

Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Dixon called a meeting of the board of directors of Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy to order on Monday Jun 22, 2020 at 6:35 PM.

C. Read Mission Statement

A. Gozycki read the Mission Statement.

D. Administrative Meeting Review

M. Dixon reminded attendees of Zoom meeting etiquette and the rules of remote meetings in accordance with public meeting laws.

E. Approval of Prior Minutes

S. Schroeck made a motion to approve the minutes Board Meeting on 05-26-20.
S. Dasu seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

F. Adoption of the Agenda

S. Liner made a motion to adopt the agenda for tonight's meeting.
S. Korrapati seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Community Comments (First Opportunity) - subject to guidelines

A. Community Comments - guidelines

There were no members of the public who wished to make a comment.

III. Director's Report

A. General Items

A. Pieper gave the Director's Report.

Educational Excellence and Student Information:
IReady results were shared with the Board. The iReady tests were administered remotely successfully to 99% of students. Results showed significant improvement from Fall to Spring testing overall in both Reading and Math. Data suggests that major adjustments to the curriculum in the Fall will not be needed.

Teachers and Staff:
A. Pieper is requesting a stipend for Teacher Summer professional development to work on remote instruction development as an amendment to the FY20 budget.

A. Pieper is requesting that a new position be created for a Health and Wellness Coordinator for the new school year. The person who takes over this post will assist the school in implementing requirements and suggestions from the State Government for COVID-19 spread prevention and mental health concerns. Both requests will be addressed as part of the budget discussion.

Special Events:
Going forward, special events will have to be reworked to ensure safety and comfort of students and families.
New Scholars have had a video presentation and a Kindergarten meeting both remotely. There is planning in process for alternative Back to School nights and alternatives for admissions activities.

Committees, Compliance, and Budget Items:
Calendar changes - Aug 17 will be the first day of school. Ms. Pieper will present a calendar for the Board of Directors July retreat. The school calendar must include five additional school days and five virtual school days.
The State of NC has released an update called "NC Lighting Our Way Forward." It outlines requirements for three levels of plans Red (all remote), Yellow (in school with children attending on alternating days with strict social distancing requirements), and Green (in school with all students attending each day with some social distancing requirements). A Red plan is required to be submitted to the State by July 20. The State does not require the school to submit the Green or Yellow plans for approval. There is a lot of flexibility given to schools to decide how to implement these guidelines in a way that makes sense for the particular school community. A minimum of five remote instruction days will be included regardless of the color-coded COVID-19 threat level. The Governor is expected to make an announcement July 1 regarding the plan for the first day of school.

Federal funds update - Safe Schools Grant submitted, If the school receives the Grant, it will be used to hire a school resource officer. Title I allotment not awarded for FY21, Title II allotted in the amount of $2700 which will be used for teacher professional development.
A. Pieper is also asking for some money from the current year's budget for staff bonuses. This will be addressed in the budget discussion.
The school needs to hire a new cleaning company. Contract will be discussed in closed session.

IV. Expansion Committee

A. Status Update

S. Korrapati gave the expansion update.

The Committee met to discuss the impact of the pandemic on plans for expansion. The Committee recommends proceeding with expansion as discussed exercising caution as there have been market changes related to COVID-19.

V. Diversity & Inclusion Committee

A. Communication Update

S. Dasu gave the Diversity & Inclusion Committee update. The Committee met and discussed the Board communication to parents in regards to the Black Lives Matter movement and the recent protests. A message was delivered by email to school families expressing support for the Black Lives Matter movement and the school's willingness to assist students and listen to the community regarding matters of race relations, diversity, and inclusion. The Committee will deliver a survey to parents in the coming weeks to get feedback from parents and students regarding feelings about Diversity and Inclusion with the goal of meeting the school community's needs through the SEL program.

VI. Development Committee

A. Annual Giving Campaign Update

A. Farooqi gave the Annual Giving Update. So far $464,000 has been raised (90% of Financial Goal), which includes $22,000 in outstanding pledges and $63,000 in matching gifts not yet received.
87% of families participated this year with an average gift of $1800. This represents a trend of a higher percentage of families participating over previous years, but a lower total amount of funds received.
The Development Committee met to discuss action items related to the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. More details will be shared in the next Board meeting.

VII. Finance Committee Update

A. Budget Amendments & Covid-19 Impacts

M. Mittal presented the amendments to the current year budget. Two changes to revenue were a reduction in expected annual giving campaign money and the addition of $527,820 which was received in a PPP loan.
There have been changes to expenses. The school had roughly $13,000 in added expenses for payout of teacher unused vacation. The school spent less in after care, bank fees, and cleaning services because of the school closure. The school also had a $1,500 savings in equipment leases. In all, revenue was adjusted with a $470,000 increase and expenses were adjusted with a $42,000 reduction. The net change to the budget puts the current year (FY20) budget at a surplus of $512,691.
M. Mittal made a motion to amend the budget as discussed.
M. Ramasamy seconded the motion.

S. Liner moved to make an amendment to the motion for proposed changes in personnel costs to be discussed in closed session and table the vote until after closed session discussion.
S. Korrapati seconded the motion.
The motion to adopt the proposed amendment to the motion carried unanimously.

B. Year End Bonus

Year end bonus will be discussed in Closed Session.

C. FY21 Budget Review & Vote

M. Mittal presented the FY21 Budget. Budget detail is included as an attachment to the meeting agenda. New spending priorities outlined include a salary increase for teachers, online learning expenses, the proposed new position for a school nurse, and COVID-19 related expenses among others. The projected cost of the spending priorities would add $273,426 to the budget. However, changes to revenue and other expenses balance the budget with a projected surplus of $10,861 assuming there is no reduction in State funds.

VIII. Governance Committee

A. Governance Committee Update

S. Liner gave the Governance Committee Update. The Committee met to discuss how the school will proceed with planning for the new school year. The Committee has formulated some plans contingent on the Governor's announcement as to how schools should proceed at the start of the new school year, which will be discussed in Closed session.
There was a recommendation from the Educational Excellence Committee to the Governance Committee to create a new SEL Committee. The purpose of the committee is to have a more intensive focus on SEL and allow the program to respond to urgent issues affecting the Social and Emotional well-being of students.
S. Liner made a motion to create a new SEL Committee.
A. Gozycki seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Officer Elections

S. Liner made a motion to elect S. Dasu as the Vice Chair for 2020/2021.
S. Korrapati seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
S. Liner made a motion to elect A. Starling as Treasurer for 2020/2021.
S. Korrapati seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

C. New Board Member Nominations

S. Dasu remarked on the New Board Member Nominations. There were four candidates. The recommendations of the interview panel will be discussed in closed session.

D. Board Assessment

82% of Board members have completed the Board Assessment so far. M. Dixon requested that all board members complete the Assessment so that the results and recommendations from Board on Track can be discussed at the Board Retreat.

IX. Community Comments (Second Opportunity) - Subject to Guidelines

A. Agenda Item Summary

There were no members of the public who wished to make a comment.

X. Closed Session (if necessary)

A. Closed Session

S. Liner made a motion to convene in closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11: to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential information, to discuss contract negotiations, and to discuss personnel matters involving an individual employee or prospective employee.
M. Ramasamy seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

XI. Closing Items

A. Vote on any items from Closed Sessions

A. Gozycki made a motion to approve the cleaning company contract.
S. Dasu seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
A. Gozycki made a motion to approve the slate of new board members as presented by the Governance Committee.
S. Korrapati seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

A. Gozycki	Aye
M. Mittal	Aye
M. Dixon	Aye
S. Schroeck	Aye
A. Starling	Aye
S. Liner	Abstain
M. Ramasamy	Aye
A. Farooqi	Aye
S. Korrapati	Aye

Roll Call

S. Dasu	Aye

A. Gozycki made a motion to approve the amendment to the proposed 2019-2020 budget amendments.

S. Dasu seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

A. Gozycki made a motion to approve the 2019-2020 budget amendments.

M. Mittal seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

A. Gozycki made a motion to approve the amendment to the proposed 2020-2021 budget.

S. Dasu seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

S. Schroeck	Aye
A. Gozycki	Aye
A. Starling	Aye
S. Liner	Aye
M. Ramasamy	Aye
M. Mittal	No
S. Dasu	Aye
S. Korrapati	No
A. Farooqi	Aye
M. Dixon	Aye

A. Gozycki made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 budget with amendments as expressed during closed session.

S. Schroeck seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

S. Korrapati	No
M. Mittal	No
S. Dasu	Aye
A. Gozycki	Aye
S. Liner	Aye
M. Ramasamy	Aye
M. Dixon	Aye
A. Farooqi	Aye
A. Starling	Aye
S. Schroeck	Aye

B. Adjourn Meeting

A. Gozycki made a motion to adjourn.

S. Liner seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 11:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
S. Schroeck